

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/007,156

Examiner

Dave Robertson

Applicant(s)

SOTOS, JOHN G.

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/17/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 8,9,31-33,43-50,52-55,59,62-64,68,70 and 76.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


BETH VAN DOREN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

1. The following is an Examiner's Amendment and Reasons for Allowance on claims submitted by Applicant's Amendment of 12/17/2007.

In response to the filing of the Amendment new matter and/or indefiniteness was alleged in some of the new claims submitted, and, subsequently, upon Interview with Applicant's representative, all claims alleged as new matter or indefinite were confirmed as cancellable by Examiner's Amendment.

Claims submitted by Amendment of 12/17/2007 are thus entered with all claims alleged as new matter or indefinite herein cancelled. A Reasons for Allowance are provided on the claims remaining.

Also amended herein are claims for which certain matters of statutory claiming requirements have been raised, the amendments herein confirmed by follow-up Interview with Applicant's representative.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Richard Ogawa (Reg# 37692) on 1/4/2008 and 1/7/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel claims 51, 56-58, 60, 61, 65-67, 69, and 71-75.

Amend Claim 76 as indicated below:

76. A system for assessing expertise associated with an entity in a subject, the system comprising ~~a server system coupled with a database of documents, the server system having a memory including:~~

a server system coupled to a database of documents, the server system comprising a memory having stored therein computer-readable code, and a processor for executing the computer-readable code stored in the memory, the computer-readable code comprising:

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 8, 9, 31-33, 43-50, 52-55, 59, 62-64, 68, 70, and 76 are allowed

None of the prior art of record, alone or in combination, teach or suggest finding and ranking the technical capability of a geographic region using automatic scoring of documents obtained by query of databases containing documents and information about documents published by authors affiliated with institutions located in a geographic region, then allowing the user to hierarchically drill-down (navigate) the geographic regions and institutions to find the authors (experts), eventually linking to information on expertise and the papers on which the rankings are based.

The closest prior art Mattox et al. (1999) does not alone teach or in combination fairly suggest a method and system that finds and ranks the technical capability of a geographic region using automatic scoring of expertise indicated in papers published by authors affiliated with institutions located in a geographic region, and allowing the user to hierarchically drill-down (navigate) the geographic regions and institutions to find the authors (experts), eventually linking to information on expertise and the papers on which the ranking are based. Specifically, Mattox et al. does not teach *calculating a third score for each of a plurality of geographic regions based on the second scores of each entity located within each geographic region, ranking expertise associated with the plurality of geographic regions based on the third scores for each geographic region; and hierarchically displaying to a user the ranking of expertise of the plurality of geographic regions.*

Application/Control Number:
10/007,156
Art Unit: 3623

Page 5

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Application/Control Number:
10/007,156
Art Unit: 3623

Page 6

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dave Robertson whose telephone number is 571-272-8220. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:15am to 5:15pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 571-272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

dcr

Dcd
1/7/08

Beth Van Doren
Primary Examiner
Art 3623